

# Risk Management Guideline

## School Operated Swimming Pools

### Background:

Water related accidents occur commonly and constitute one of the top causes of injury-related death in young people according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). According to the American Safety Council, over 4,000 people die each year from drowning.

Districts can help to protect swimmers from the dangers of water related injuries and death by taking steps to correct any deficiencies in the facility and manage the safety of individuals who use the facilities.

### Recommendation:

All use of school operated swimming pools should undergo an approval process that includes approval by an administrator who can evaluate compliance with the CRSIG Risk Management Guidelines.

### GUIDELINES:

#### *SWIMMING POOL FACILITIES*

- The facility will be inspected prior to each opening for lessons or public swimming. All hazardous objects/items are to be removed or corrected prior to the daily operations. Each inspection and response to hazards will be documented and communicated to staff overseeing the operations.
- Chemical monitoring and treatment will be performed prior to opening the pool for swimming and at regular intervals throughout the day. Records of testing and treatment will be documented and monitored by the facility manager.

Testing & Treatment will occur as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Person Responsible: \_\_\_\_\_

Back-Up Person Responsible: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Prohibition** of the use of the swimming pool for parties and celebrations is **strongly recommended**.
- When the pool is used for swim lessons or swim team activities, a permission form and hold harmless agreement should be in place prior to the activity.
- Under no circumstances should alcoholic beverages or glass containers be allowed on the premises. This type of event is specifically excluded from insurance coverage.

#### *SWIMMING POOL OPERATION*

- Life-Guards will possess a minimum of the following qualifications:  
American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Certification  
First Aid and CPR Certification  
(Parents of participants should not serve as Life-Guards)
- No less than 2 trained Life-Guards will monitor swimmers in the water at all times. (Note: If less than two Life-Guards are available as dedicated guards, the pool should be closed to all swimmers until appropriate staffing becomes available.)

*EMERGENCY PLAN*

**In the case of an injury or illness requiring immediate medical care**, 911 will be contacted.

- All swimmers will be evacuated from the swimming pool.
- Contact will be made with the school district by phone call or radio to report all emergencies:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Radio: \_\_\_\_\_
- The swimming pool supervisor will obtain directions from the program manager for notice to parent/s, pool closure/recommencement of swimming activities and/or management of remaining individuals at the facility.
- All swimming pool staff will document the event in writing.

**In the case of an injury or illness requiring first aid**, the pool supervisor will be contacted.

- A determination will be made as to if the swimming pool should be evacuated.
- Contact will be made with the school district by phone call or radio to report all incidents requiring first aid:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Radio: \_\_\_\_\_
- The swimming pool supervisor will obtain directions from the program manager for notice to parent/s, pool closure/recommencement of swimming activities and/or management of remaining individuals at the facility.
- All involved swimming pool staff will document the incident in writing.

*RULES FOR SWIMMERS*

- Bathing suits must be worn at all times. No cut-offs, gym shorts or T-shirts (unless the school has verified that the drain system has been retrofitted or complies with current regulations to prevent entrapment hazards).
- Bandages must be removed prior to entering the pool.
- The following acts are prohibited:
  - Running on the pool deck
  - Rough play, climbing onto Life-Guard chairs
  - Wrestling, standing/sitting on shoulders, chicken fights, dunking or pushing
  - Sitting or hanging on ropes
  - Playing on ladders
  - Gum chewing or eating near the pool
  - Unnecessary conversation with the lifeguard
  - Diving from the deck in the shallow end of the pool
  - Extended underwater swimming or breath holding contests
- Infants are required to wear plastic pants or swim diapers in the pool.
- Riders must go down any slide feet first, lying on their back or seated. No person is allowed to stand at the bottom of a slide to catch a rider.
- Flotation devices and toys are not permitted.
- The following items/activities are prohibited:
  - No glass containers of any sort
  - No Smoking allowed
  - No alcoholic beverages allowed
  - No animals allowed
- Life-Guards have final authority on all safety issues